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TITLE: Method for the detection of an analyte by means of a nucleic acid reporter

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 435/6; 435/7.1, 435/91.1, 435/91.2

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for the detection of a non-nucleic acid analyte comprising: (i) contacting at least one non-nucleic acid analyte having at least two reporter conjugate binding sites with at least two reporter conjugates, said reporter conjugates each comprising: a) one member of a binding pair having specificity for at least one reporter conjugate binding site on said analyte; b) a nucleic acid label; wherein said analyte binds to said reporter conjugate forming an analyte dependent reporter complex; (ii) contacting said analyte dependent reporter complex with a enzyme composition wherein the nucleic acid labels on said reporter conjugates are joined to form an analyte specific amplicon; (iii) contacting the analyte dependent amplicon with an replication composition wherein amplification products are produced; and (iv) detecting said amplification products.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said non-nucleic acid analyte at step (i) is optionally immobilized on a solid support.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said enzyme composition comprises a DNA polymerase and wherein said nucleic acid labels on said reporter conjugates are joined by an overlap at each 3' end.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said enzyme composition comprises a DNA ligase and wherein said nucleic acid labels on said reporter conjugates are enzymatically joined by means of a ligation linker comprising a replication inhibitory moiety.